

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 - 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 – 17, and 19 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Hence, claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 19 are pending examination.

All pending claims are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has requested further detailed information about specific claim terminology, specifically, about the terms 'policy function', 'incorporates said expression', and 'database command'.

An embodiment of a policy function is described in the present application as 0021. A policy is a function associated with a database object, such as a table or table column, and is invoked for the purpose of generating an expression that is used to rewrite a database statement. The query is rewritten by incorporating the expression.

An example of incorporating an expression that is returned by a policy function is provided at 0025, pertinent parts of which are paraphrased as follows.

[0010] To illustrate, consider a table DEPT and a query Q1. ... Database server 100 receives query Q1 as follows.

```
SQL>select deptno, dname, loc from dept;
```

In response, database server 100 invokes a policy function for deptno, which returns the condition expression 'deptno = 10' of the policy function referenced by the policy invoked. Database server 100 rewrites the query as:

```
select case when deptno = 10 then deptno else NULL end, dname,  
loc from dept;
```

Note that based on the expression incorporated into the rewritten statement, the modified query specifies whether to mask a value of a column by returning a mask of the value instead of the value. In this case, the query Q1 returns the value of deptno from

table DEPT when deptno = 10. Otherwise (when deptno is not equal to 10), the value of NULL is returned for deptno.

Finally, with respect to the term database command, the term has been replaced with database statement. Database statements are fully described in 0007 of the application. Query Q1 is an example of a database statement.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 11 is respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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on May 10, 2007 by Trudy Bagdon